

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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PARIS FOR UNESCO; ROME FOR FODAG; VIENNA FOR IAEA & UNIDO
MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJECT: CERP 008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: (A) TOAID A-126, (B) TOAID A-127, BOTH DATED 3/31/72,
(C) SEOUL 6289, DATED 11/1/72, (D) CA 902, DATED 2/13/70,
(E) STATE 057968

SUMMARY: IN LAST YEAR'S UN EVALUATION MISSION REPORTED THAT THE
UNDP WAS DEVELOPING COUNTRY PROGRAM APPROACH TO ASSISTANCE. THIS
APPROACH HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN FORMULATED AND IS GEARED TO THE
EXPRESSED PRIORITIES OF THE ROKG AS DETAILED IN KOREA'S THIRD
FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TFYP) 1972-1976. THE EMPHASIS OF THE
TFYP IS ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL ECONOMY, INCREASED LEVEL OF
EXPORTS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEAVY AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

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BASED ON THESE OBJECTIVES, THE UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN STRATEGIC AREAS NOT COVERED BY BILATERAL AND OTHER MULTILATERAL AGENCIES (END SUMMARY).

1. IN GENERAL, THE COMMENTS FOREARDED IN REF (A) REMAIN VALID FOR THIS YEAR. THE NEW RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVED IN SEOUL AND ASSUMED HIS DUTIES IN OCTOBER 1972, AND APPEARS TO HAVE DEVELOPED GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS IN THE ROKG. SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS MEETINGS AND CONTACTS BETWEEN THE UNDP STAFF AND USAID OFFICERS, INCLUDING A FULL BRIEFING ON THE AID ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

2. THE UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED IN KOREA DURING THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 1972 AND IS CURRENTLY IN INITIAL STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION. CONSEQUENTLY, INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA THREE, REF (E), NOT AVAILABLE SINCE UNDP HAS NOT YET CONDUCTED AN ANNUAL REVIEW. HOWEVER, UNDP RES REP FORMULATING PLANS FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW IN SUMMER 1973, WITH PARTICIPATION OF INTERESTED ROKG MINISTRIES AND IN SOME CASES PARTICIPATION OF OTHER DONORS TO ASSURE NON DUPLICATION OF PROJECTS.

3. PAST UNDP PROGRAMS WERE HEAVILY SKEWED IN FAVOR OF AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS. AT TIMES THIS AMOUNTED AT ABOUT SIXTY PERCENT OF TOTAL UNDP ASSISTANCE. THE COUNTRY PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE ROKG IN OCTOBER 1972 FOR PERIOD 1972-1977 CALLED FOR OBLIGATION OF DOLS. EIGHTEEN MILLION. CURRENT LEVEL OF OPERATIONS UNDER THE PROGRAM INVOLVES EXPENDITURES OF DOLS. THREE MILLION ANNUAL BASIS FOR 57 PROJECTS (SEVENTEEN LARGE SCALE DOLS. 100,000 OR MORE AND FORTY SMALL SCALE), UTILIZING SEVENTY EXPERTS IN COUNTRY; CURRENTLY DEVOTES ONE- THIRD TO AGRICULTUREAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. BY 1977 THIS AMOUNT WOULD DECREASE TO APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN PERCENT OF TOTAL UNDP RESOURCES IN THE RURAL SECTOR. THE UNDP RES REP IS CONCERNED THAT THIS PERHAPS REPRESENTS AN OVERREACTION TO A PREVIOUSLY IMBALANCED PROGRAM AND WILL ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE PROGRAM AS NEW PROPOSALS ARE DEVELOPED. TO ASSIGN SOME 33 PERCENT OF RESOURCES TO AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS SINCE THAT SECTOR WILL CONTINUE HIGH PRIORITY OF ROKG OVER THE PLAN PERIOD. IN ADDITION TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT, UNDP IS PROGRAMMING ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF BUDGET TO HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT; TEN PERCENT TO PROJECTS EMPHASIZING TRADE AND TOURISM; WITH TWENTY PERCENT GOING TO INDUSTRY AND THE REMAINDER TO INFRASTRUCTURE.

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4. AT THIS POINT, IT IS PREMATURE TO EVALUATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING APPROACH TO ASSISTANCE HAS OR WILL IMPROVE THE OVERALL UNDP PROGRAM. AS INDICATED ABOVE AND IN REF (C) , THE UNDP PROGRAM PORTFOLIO OF DOLS. THREE MILLION PER ANNUM FOR 57 PROJECTS APPEARS TO REPRESENT A SCATTERATION OF RESOURCES. UNDP RECOGNIZES THIS FACT AND WILL ATTEMPT TO CONCENTRATE RESOURCES ON FEWER SECTORS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE GREATER IMPACT. WHILE CONTINUING TO RESTRUCTURE THE PROGRAM TO MAKE IT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE EXPRESSED PRIORITIES AND NEEDS AS DETAILED IN THE ROKG TFYP.

5. CURRENTLY, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN' S FUND, AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME ALL MAINTAIN SEPARATE PROGRAMS. GREATER COORDINATION OF THESE PROGRAMS, WITH REGULAR UNDP PROGRAM AND CONTINUED MODIFICATION OF ALL UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITHIN A CLEARLY DEFINED ASSISTANCE STRATEGY WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT MORE FULLY KOREA' S REMARKABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH TO DATE, WOULD APPEAR DESIRABLE. KOREA TODAY IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS A COUNTRY ON THE THRESHOLD OF GRADUATION FROM THE RANKS OF THE LDR' S. THE ROKG HAS STATED THAT ITS CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PLANS ARE GEARED TO TERMINATION OF CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE BY END OF THE TFYP. KOREA WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF THE RURAL SECTOR CURRENTLY REQUIRES SECOND GENERATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ENTAILING PRINCIPALLY THE APPLICATION OF SHORT- TERM CONSULTANT AND TRAINING SERVICES NEEDED TO ADDRESS MORE COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. TRADITIONAL MODES OF ASSISTANCE INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF FULL TIME TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND GRANTS OF CAPITAL ASSISTANCE, AS AUTHORIZED UNDER WFP PROGRAMS, MAY WELL BE OUTMODED IN THE KOREAN SITUATION.

6. THE COMMENTS FORWARDED BY REF (B) ALSO REMAIN VALID.

DECON 4/1/74.

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